

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Falling Spring Presbyterian Church Manse

other names/site number The Old Manse, 081-0013

2. Location

street & number 650 Falling Spring Rd not for publication N/A
city or town Glasgow vicinity
state Virginia code VA county Rockbridge code 163 Zip 24555

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register

 See continuation sheet.

 determined eligible for the National Register

 See continuation sheet.

 determined not eligible for the National Register

 removed from the National Register

 other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper _____

Date of Action _____

**U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**Falling Spring Presbyterian Church Manse
Rockbridge County, Virginia**

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

 building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: domestic Sub: single dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: domestic Sub: single dwelling

U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Falling Spring Presbyterian Church Manse
Rockbridge County, Virginia

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)Gothic Revival Style

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)foundation brickroof metalwalls brick

other wood

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ X A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ X C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**Falling Spring Presbyterian Church Manse
Rockbridge County, Virginia**

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Religion, Architecture

Period of Significance 1857-1955

1857-1955

Significant Dates 1857

1857

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation n/a

n/a

Architect/Builder John G. Pole – contract carpenter

John G. Pole – contract carpenter

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data

X State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

____ Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 8.18 acres

8.18 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

1 17 636467 4171962 2

3 11 326167 117196 2

4

See continuation sheet.

U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Falling Spring Presbyterian Church Manse
Rockbridge County, Virginia

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kathleen M. Kain (owner)

Organization: _____ date April 2005

street & number: 650 Falling Spring Rd. telephone 540-258-2687

city or town Glasgow state VA zip code 24555

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name/title: Kathleen M. Kain

street & number: 650 Falling Spring Rd. telephone 540-258-2687

city or town Glasgow state VA zip code 24555

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Falling Spring Presbyterian Church Manse
Rockbridge County, Virginia

Section 7 Page 1

7. Summary Description:

The Old Falling Spring Manse is located in Rockbridge County, Virginia, on Falling Spring Road (SR680), named for the Presbyterian Church for which the manse was built. The property is 1.9 miles east of SR11 (South Lee Highway) and 7 miles south of Lexington. The house is approximately centered near the western boundary of the 8.18 acre rectangular lot. A 1970s garage is situated to the north of the house on the western boundary at the tear-drop end of a straight, gravel driveway. Several very mature deciduous trees pepper the yard, mingled with younger deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs. Located near the road, a quarter-acre pear-shaped pond abuts a spring-fed creek, which intersects the property horizontally from west to east and eventually flows behind the church, a half mile distant. Fenced pasture surrounds the house in an inverted "L" shape, with a ca. 1970 pole barn and approximately 1.5 acres of woods at the northern boundary. Rolling pastures surround the property and the Blue Ridge Mountains highlight the eastern landscape.

Narrative Description

The Old Manse is an L-shaped, one-and-one-half-story, central passage, double-pile, 5-bay brick house. Its design is based on plates from prominent mid-nineteenth century architect A. J. Downing's *Cottage Residences* and his magazine, *The Horticulturalist*, and is stylistically similar to the Lexington Presbyterian Church Manse, constructed in 1848. The roof is side-gabled, with a central gable centered on the front elevation. The foundation and walls are 3 bricks thick, the front (south) 5-bay facade laid in Flemish bond, the sides and rear in 4-course American bond.

The basement is accessed only via an exterior bulkhead entrance. There are four entrances to the main floor of the house, three with porches. The front-entrance 3-bay porch has four square columns and a 5-panel door which retains a cast bronze, Taylor's patent Oct.23, 1860, door bell and crank. The 2-pane transom window over the front door and 4-pane sidelights are original. Originally shuttered, all windows are six-over-six, double-hung sash. Some are original, but most are replacements. A Gothic-arched door in the front gable opened onto a porch until the 1970s, when the wooden-railing parapet was removed, a segment of which now prevents exit onto the front-entrance porch roof. The standing-seam metal roof has bracketed eaves around the circumference and five brick chimneys, two on each side and one in the rear. A concrete-block and clapboard garage and workroom, probably built in the 1970's, is to the west of the kitchen.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Falling Spring Presbyterian Church Manse
Rockbridge County, Virginia**

A

Section _7_ Page _2_

3-stall pole barn with central tack/storage room is located approximately 100 yards north of the house near the wooded portion of the lot.

While a dirt crawl space underlies most of the house, a concrete-floored basement room is located under the original kitchen at the west rear of the house. The interior of the house is organized around a center hall. Midway in the hall is an unusual applied decorative wood arch, with a turned pendant at the center that may originally have held a gas lamp. A Greek Revival fireplace mantel remains in the living room. The ceiling height in the first floor main rooms is 9'6". The original kitchen, located in the north rear wing of the house and providing the L shape, was enlarged in the 1970s to incorporate what had been a screened porch. The exterior brick of this addition is 4-course American bond, conforming to the original.

A dog-leg staircase, attached to the east wall of the center hallway, leads to the second floor. A bedroom with bath and a center bath are reached at the stair landing. These rooms were created in the 1970s from what was a single room over the original kitchen, and the addition to the kitchen. The original bedrooms retain their original pine flooring.

A photograph taken by Michael Miley around 1890 shows what may be a wooden preacher's study attached to the east side of the house. The only remaining evidence of this structure is a section of wood beam embedded in the exterior brick near the doorway.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Falling Spring Presbyterian Church Manse
Rockbridge County, Virginia

Section 8 Page 3

8. Statement of Significance

Summary and Justification of Criteria

The Old Manse was built in 1856-7 by the congregation of the Falling Spring Presbyterian Church for the Rev. William Finney Junkin. The dwelling remained in possession of the church until the 1970s, when it was sold to a private owner. Falling Spring Presbyterian Church is among the most historically and architecturally significant churches that still stand in Rockbridge County, a county with a wealth of historic resources. The significance of the manse lies not only in its historical association with the church and religious history of the area, but also as a fine early example of Gothic Revival domestic architecture within the context of the antebellum south. Three members of the church along with Rev. Junkin selected the model for the manse from A.J. Downing's book, *Cottage Residences*. The house is exceedingly well crafted and is well preserved, possessing a high level of historic integrity. The Falling Spring Church Manse is eligible for the National Register at the local level under Criterion A in the area of Religion for its history as an important ancillary of the church; and also under Criterion C in the area of Architecture for its early Gothic Revival design and exemplary construction values for the period. The period of significance begins in 1856 and ends in 1956.

Acknowledgements

Several individuals assisted in the preparation of this report. Foremost were Mike Pulice of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, and Tom Kastner and Rich Weil of the Ruth Anderson McCulloch Branch of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities. Others who provided useful information were Robert Rorrer, former owner of The Manse; Isabelle Patterson, former resident and longtime member of the Board of Trustees of the Falling Spring Presbyterian Church; and the staff of Special Collections, Leyburn Library, Washington & Lee University, Lexington, Virginia.

Section 8 Page 4

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Falling Spring Presbyterian Church Manse
Rockbridge County, Virginia

Historical Background

The roots of the Falling Spring Presbyterian Church extend far back into colonial times as Presbyterian ministers brought their fervor for the gospel, liberty, independence and education to the western Virginia frontier. Beginning in the 1730s it was customary for settlers of the Presbyterian faith in the Rockbridge area to gather in a frontier cabin for religious fellowship, and in 1748 a small “society” south of Lexington that had formed such a meeting-house was ‘set in order’ as the Falling Spring Church, one of three churches in the “Fork of James group”. The “group” was served by itinerant pastors until 1775, when James McConnell, a graduate of Nassau Hall – now Princeton University – was installed as pastor. A classmate of William Graham, the first President of Liberty Hall Academy -- later Washington College and now Washington and Lee University -- McConnell’s “enthusiasm was contagious. ... Speaking at musters, conferring with men in their cabin homes, and preaching sermons that carried the full sweep of the patriotic note, McConnell gave strong support to the colonists’ cause in the American Revolution. ... In 1782 Hanover Presbytery placed him on the Board of Trustees of Liberty Hall Academy.”¹ Two pastors succeeded McConnell at Falling Spring, Rev. Samuel Houston and Rev. John Ewing, each of whom had his own residence.

In 1854 Rev. William F. Junkin, son of George F. Junkin – then president of Washington College and succeeded by Gen. Robert E. Lee – assumed the pastorate of Falling Spring Church, having graduated alongside his brother, in the footsteps of their father, from Princeton University. It was at the beginning of Rev. Junkin’s tenure, in April of 1856, that the church “first took into consideration the idea of looking for property upon which it could build its first parsonage.”² After an obviously successful search, the *Lexington Gazette* reported on November 20, 1856 that “the Presbyterian Church at Falling Spring ... is building a very neat Parsonage about half a mile from the Church, on the road to Fancy Hill, on a very eligible lot of five acres generously presented to the Church, for that purpose, by Messrs. John B. & Wm. F. Poague. The house, which is a handsome cottage of brick, will cost about \$3,000, and will, it is supposed, be ready in the Spring for its first occupant, the Rev. Wm. F. Junkin, the highly esteemed and popular pastor of the congregation. Mr. John G. Pole, of Lexington, is the skillful and efficient contractor for the carpenter’s work.” Reverend Junkin served the congregation until 1867, although his pastorate was interrupted by his service as a private, officer and chaplain in the Confederate Army.³

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Falling Spring Presbyterian Church Manse
Rockbridge County, Virginia**

Named after a small waterfall ("Falling Spring") off Buffalo Creek, the Presbyterian Church and manse currently stand on a small tract of land originally willed in 1786 by Alexander Beggs. The second church building built of stone in 1793 fell to disrepair in the 1860s and the church building committee decided a new brick facility should be erected. The Manse predates the current Presbyterian Church building which was dedicated in May of 1864 after the interruption of the Civil War.

In his pattern books, architect A. J. Downing recommended the cottage Gothic over the more severe and formal Greek designs for residential use in rural settings. This style quickly influenced many other public and private building types, and the Presbyterians of Lexington, unaware of the importance of their decision, introduced the cottage Gothic style to the City with the design of their 1848 Manse. A member of the building committee, Colonel J. T. L. Preston commented on the style of the Lexington Presbyterian Church Manse and hoped the architectural design would indeed be imitated in the future.⁴ This hope was realized with the completion of the Falling Spring Manse. The Manse remained the parsonage for the Falling Spring Presbyterian Church until it was sold by the congregation in 1970, and apart from a few functional modernizations, it remains very much as it did upon completion in the spring of 1857.

Endnotes

¹ Diehl, George West, *The Reverend Samuel Houston, V. D. M.*, p. 109.

² Congressional Minutes Record Book, Falling Spring Presbyterian Church, p. 4.

³ Diehl, p. 110.

⁴ Royster, Lyle, Jr., and Pamela H. Simpson, *The Architecture of Historic Lexington*, pp. 29-31.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Falling Spring Presbyterian Church Manse
Rockbridge County, Virginia

9. Bibliography

Downing, Andrew Jackson. *Cottage Residences*. New York, NY: Wiley and Putnam. 1847.

Diehl, George West. *The Reverend Samuel Houston, V. D. M.*. Verona, Va: McClure Co., 1970.

Falling Spring Presbyterian Church. *Congressional Minutes Record Book*. 1856.

Lexington Gazette (Lexington, Va). 1856

Rockbridge County Deed and Tax records. Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Rockbridge County Courthouse, Lexington, Va.

Royster, Lyle, Jr., and Pamela H. Simpson. *The Architecture of Historic Lexington*. Lexington, Va: University Press of Virginia. 1977.

Shoop, Michael I. *The Genealogies of the Jackson, Junkin & Morrison Families*. Lexington, Va: Garland Grey Memorial Research Center, Stonewall Jackson House Foundation. 1981.

Student paper by Melissa Thrasher. "A Vernacular Study of the Old Manse of Falling Springs Presbyterian Church". 1988. Washington & Lee University Special Collections, Leyburn Library, Lexington, Va.

Wilson, Howard McKnight. *The Lexington Presbyterian Heritage; the Presbytery of Lexington and its churches in the Synod of Virginia, Presbyterian Church in the United States*. Verona, Va: McClure Co., 1971.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Falling Spring Presbyterian Church Manse
Rockbridge County, Virginia

Section 10, photo Page 7

10. Geographic Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated parcel is identified as parcel 29 on Rockbridge County tax maps 97 and 98.

Boundary Justification

The property nominated for listing includes sufficient surrounding acreage to highlight the rural agricultural character of the dwelling's historic setting.

All photographs are of:

Falling Springs Church Manse
Rockbridge County, Virginia

Date: April 21, 2005

Photographer: Michael J. Pulice

Negative No. 22115

Location of negatives: VDHR, Richmond

1. VIEW OF: Manse, front (south) elevation
2. VIEW OF: Manse, side (west) elevation
3. VIEW OF: Manse, central passage, stair, facing rear
4. VIEW OF: Manse, central passage, decorative arch
5. VIEW OF: Manse, central passage, stair close-up
6. VIEW OF: Manse, central passage, facing front
7. VIEW OF: Doorbell (1860)
8. VIEW OF: Parlor & dining room
9. VIEW OF: Parlor fireplace/mantel
10. VIEW OF: 2nd floor central passage, Gothic-arched French doors